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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND
EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL CENTER
5183 BLACKHAWK ROAD
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5424

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APR 14 2015

RDCB-DPS-RS

MEMORANDUM THRU Director, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC),
(RDCB-D, Mr. Joseph L. Corriveau), 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground,
MD 21010-5424

FOR Office of the Chief Counsel, US Army Research, Development and Engineering
Command (RDECOM), (AMSRD-CCF/Ms. Kelly Knapp), 3071 Aberdeen Boulevard,
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5424

SUBJECT: Operations Security/Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Review Request

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend the release of information in regard to request to RDECOM FOIA Requests FA-14-0054.
2. ECBC received the request from Ms. Kelly Knapp, the RDECOM FOIA Officer. The request originated from [REDACTED].
3. The following documents were reviewed by Subject Matter Experts within ECBC:
 - a. History of Research at Yale University, dated 20 Nov 1918, 11 pages.
 - b. Bancroft's History of the Chemical Warfare Service in the United States, by Lt. William Bancroft; AD-495049; dated 31 May 1919, 206 pages.
 - c. A Historical Sketch of Edgewood Arsenal, by Lt. William McPherson; AD 498494; date unknown, 20 pages.
 - d. The Diary of Jet Parker; C390D1; dated Sep - Dec 1918, 26 pages.
 - e. American University Technical Reports, Bureau of Mines, War Gas Investigations (WGI) Monographs, date unknown.

RDCB-DPS-RS

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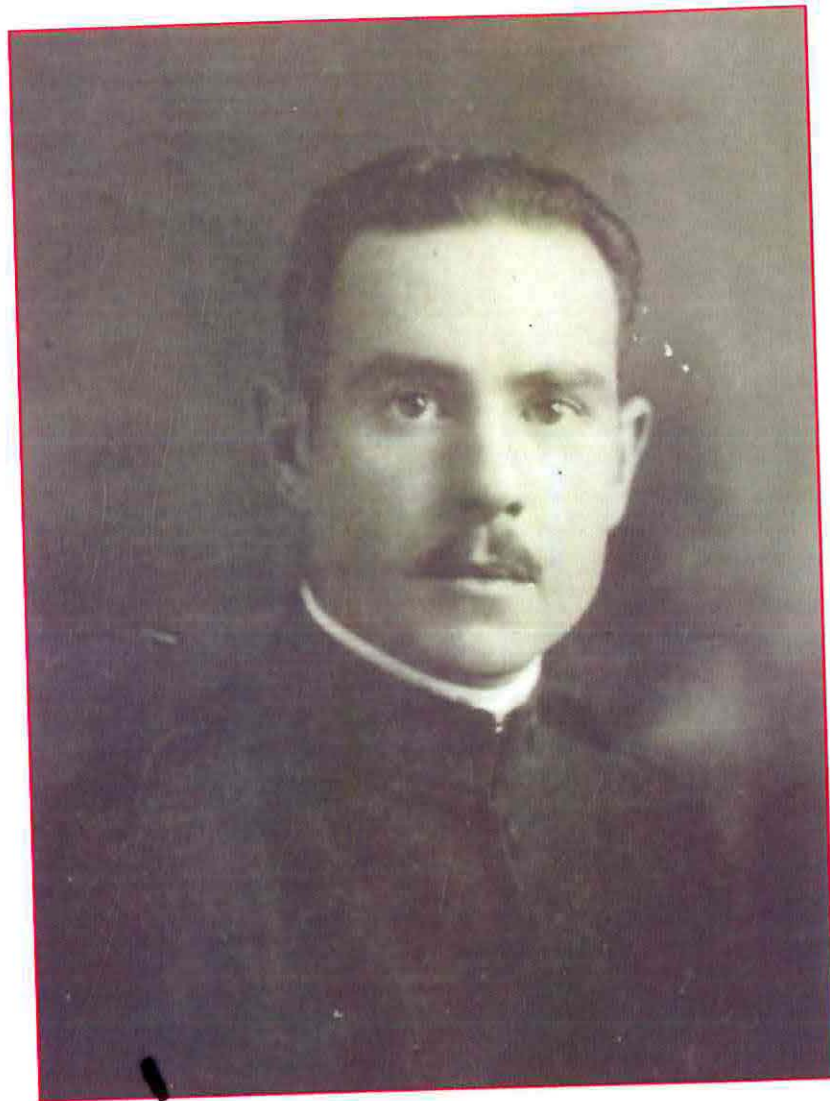
4. ECBC has determined that all of the reviewed documents are suitable for release, however, all documents must have the classification/distribution changed through the Defense Technical Information Center prior to any release.

5. The point of contact is Mr. Ronald L. Stafford, ECBC Security Manager, (410) 436-1999 or ronald.l.stafford.civ@mail.mil.



RONALD L. STAFFORD
Security Manager

The Diary of Jet Parker



September-December 1918



Sept. 2, 1918 to Dec. 5, 1918

Jt Parker

Left Edgewood arrival
about 12/22.

Arrived Camp Funston
12/24.

Discharged from
Camp Funston 12/26/18

26
27

Camp, Stanton
Sept. 2, 1918
About noon

Preparations for
a big snow are-
melter way. I have
brought here in
it, a motor cycle
and car. Took my
my blue, dark
bag in the tub in
front of me and
just barely room
to wedge my feet
in on either side.
When I arrived
at building 525 I
found several other

men who are bound
for the same destination
as I. A "hard boiled"
acting sergeant gave
me a broom the minute
I arrived and ordered
me to sweep a very
clean hall, why it
was so clean I
learned later. As
each man arrived -
he was given command
of the broom and told
to sweep the same
hall. When we left
the hallway was a
masterpiece of cleanliness.

The fifteen men
who are going on this
trip appear to be a

fine lot of fellows.
All are college men.
It is a relief to
get out of a bunch
where speaking the
brood with one's
fork seems to be
the last word in
table manners. Not
that this bunch is
fastidious, that is
the least. But
all seem to know
that they are members
of the human family.
We returned
now from the
funeral home, where
we received notice
for our trip. We are

several dozen 8 oz
packages of "Hard Baked",
which looks like a
thick soda cracker and
is about three times
as hard and dry,
cans of corned beef,
of tomatoes, pork and
beans and one can
of peach jam. We
will be given coffee
along the line.

Kansas City

9 P.M.

Sept 3, 1918

We caught a local
train to Kansas City.
I tried to get word
to the folks at Banner
Springs so they could

see me at the station
but failed. Was in
Kansas about three
minutes.

Some of the British
were ten minutes
late in meeting at
the appointed time and
our command (a
private) was almost
a nervous wreck when
they finally
came.

St. Louis.

Sept. 5 11 A.M.

Took a Pullman
from Kansas City, and
slept between. I was
like "white folks"
last night. We were

over an hour late
arriving here so
missed our morning
train and will
have to wait
until twelve o'clock
for another -

this was good
luck, as it gave
me time to look
up Arnold. Went
to his office and
he phoned Ed and
both went to the
station with me.

Had lunch at
the Y.M.C.A. Canteen
in the station and
the coffee, bread
and butter and

real pie that the
Italians there donated
us made a good
meal along with
our own ration.

We are leaving here
on the Pennsylvania
"New Yorker", a de luxe
train with a fine
Italian extra car
attached. Nothing but
first class coach on
this train.

Edgewood Arsenal
Sept. 7, 1916

Have been here
several days. We are
in quarantine for
two weeks and will
not be assigned to

regular duty. We
are quitered in
a new concrete
barracks. No retreat
in the evening but
have to stand reveille
at six in the morning.

At Baltimore we
began to hear about
the terrors of this
place. Everyone we
talked to on the
way out here said
we were coming
to the place God
forgot. They tell
tales about men
being gassed
and burned and
I guess much of

it is true because
men are running
around here with
all shades of yellow
and green hair and
all varieties of
bandages on their
hands.

There is a fellow
in our room who
is called "The Undertaker"
every night when he
comes in the cage
ask him how
many coffins he
has brought in
that day. Last night
as he skinned someone
said, "Well, Undertaker
how many pine boxes

today?"

"Must have been
a quiet day."

"Yes," said the Undertaker,
"not much stirring today."
Then he goes on to
tell the new man
that he can get them
a nice metal plates
for their coffins instead
of the usual wooden
ones, if they will
make application
to him.

Most of the men here
seem dissatisfied
with the place.
However, although
the confinement is

bad and there is no
amusement, they can
pass away the time, if
the work is at all
congenial & agreeable. I
saw Stand up if the
rest can.

We had our gas
masks issued to us
today. They are a
little hard to breathe
in, but not as
uncomfortable as
I had imagined.

Sept 15

Have done detail
work with the rest
of the bunch. The detail
consists of everything
from policing up

around the barracks
to digging ditches
with pick and shovel.
I am becoming
a very skilled with
these tools.

One day we
all pushed rock
in wheelbarrows
and built a long
rock walk.
Tired? Well, yes.
This morning a
fellow in this
company got
M.O. (dichloroethyl-
sulphide) in his eyes.
They took him to
the hospital.

Sept. 23-

The Spanish
Influenza has
broken out among
the negro troops
in camp. In spite
of the fact that
they have been
isolated and
the whole camp
quarantined, it
is thought that
the disease will
spread.

Sept. 25-

About 600 cases
of flu in the hospital.
Several deaths already.
The disease seems
to be spreading

rapidly. This
afternoon I was
sent to the hospital
to help take care
of the patients.
I and seven other
men from C.W.S.
were sent over
because we have
had drug store
experience. I suppose
I am going to work
at night in Ward
23. There are 60
patients in it at
present. I am to
have charge of it
at night. Conditions
are bad at the hospital.
All the wards are

filled so they have
placed cots along
each side of the
long corridors
and divided them
off into wards.
Sept. 27. Have
been working
twenty seven hours
and have had only
three hours sleep.
There is no end
to the work to be
done. Several patients
have developed
pneumonia and have
had to be transferred
to other wards.
There have been
several deaths, chiefly

among the colored
troops.

Sept. 20 The
number of deaths
and new cases is
rapidly increasing.
About twenty have
died and at present
there are about
1200 cases here.

An explosion at
the M. O. plant
today seriously
injured an officer
and three men.

One may die.

Oct. 5

Thirty-two deaths
last night. New
cases still increase.

A number of the patients
in ward 23 have been
transferred to the
pneumonia wards, but
new cases keep us
pretty busy.

All the borrowed
C. W. S. men are
sleeping in a couple
of empty buildings
near the hospital.

I am sleeping in the
fire station. It has
just been built and
has never been used
as a fire house yet.

I went into a small
vacant building next
to ward 23 and
almost fell over

six or eight cots
that were on the floor.
They are overcrowded
at the morgue
evidently.

Oct. 10.

The epidemic
still rages, but seems
to be ~~slightly~~ greatly
diminishing. They
have taken all
the cases out of
the corridors and
have found places
for them in
regular wards.
My ward is filled
to the guards
again.

Oct. 21—

The flu is almost
a thing of the past.
Only an occasional
new case now and
then. Many of the
A. S. men have
gone back to their
companies. One of
the fellows, that came
over the same afternoon
I did, died after being
sick four days. One
of the orderlies ~~was~~ in
this ward was taken
sick but was not
seriously ill at any
time. He is all
right now.
We were all

inoculated for
pneumonia today.

Two days ago
an explosion of
chloropicrin gassed
about twenty-five
men. Four have
died. Speaking of
+ accidents one
man had all the
flesh of his hands
burned from both hands
at the phosphorus
plant. Other men
were seriously burned,
too.

Only nineteen
patients in the ward
tonight, and none
of them very sick.

Oct. 30, 1918-

Was relieved from
duty at the hospital
yesterday after working
for the past three
nights in the ward
for gassed and
burned cases.
Very cheering ^{sight} ~~to see~~
to see three men
with ~~the~~ in their eyes
and all over their
faces. It makes a
nice little blister
about an inch
high wherever it
comes in contact
with the skin. It will
go thru the ~~the~~ clothes
very readily and

the men wear rubber
suits while they are
working with.
Nov. 7. Since
I returned to my
company I have
been assigned to
the general laboratories.
At present I am
inspecting some
63 pound Lincoln 8 inch
shells filled with
phosgene (L3). It
is all right until
some of the gas
escapes and then
there's a scramble
for gas masks and
the open air. A
rumor that the

armistice with Germany
has been signed is
floating around
camp to night
causing lots of
comment but
little excitement.
Dec. 5

Work at the plants
was stopped soon
after the armistice
was signed. They
say there were
12,000 tons of gas
on hand when
production was
stopped.

Filling of shells
has been going on
however. There

were a number
of special orders
for experimental
work at Lakehurst,
N.J. to be filled
and I have had
the job of inspecting
them. We have
filled every kind
of sphere they have
here with every
kind of gas.
When we ran
out of the regular
garden variety
of gas such as
 L_3 , L_1 , $M.O.$ etc
we would mix
them together
and make

new ones. For
example:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} L_3 \quad 25\% \\ S_1 \quad 75\% \end{array} \right\} = "Pg"$$

For the past week
I have been enjoying
one of the softest
jobs I ever had.
Two other men from
the laboratory who
have been working
on inspection were
sent to help me
so now I work
from 8 to 9 in
the morning and
from 1 to 2 in
the afternoon.
Most of the men

have been set to
work policing
up the plants
and camp and
I am going to
keep my present
position as
long as I can
so I won't have
to renew the
acquaintance
of the pack-travel.
15 married
men from each
company will
be discharged
before the end of
this week.

Have been to
Baltimore three

times during the past
week. Had
Thanksgiving dinner
at a private home.
Next night went
to a theatre party
and saw "Tillie"
at the Academy.
Patricia Collinge starred.
Tuesday the whole
battalion went in
on a special
train at 1 P.M.
and returned at
3 A.M. Had a
parade, matinee,
banquet and
dance. Some
time.

FORM 73
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. ARMY
(Authorized May 24, 1910)

DIET CARD

Hospital

Edgewood

Date

Oct. 19, 1918

Mess

PATIENTS, WARD

23.

KIND OF DIET	DINNER		SUPPER		BREAKFAST	
	Mess Room	Ward	Mess Room	Ward	Mess Room	Ward
Regular						
Light						
Liquid						

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES FOR SPECIAL DIET

ARTICLES	DINNER	SUPPER	BREAKFAST
Eggs, boiled, number			
Beef tea, cups			
Milk, pints			
Crackers, number			
Baked potatoes, number			
Chicken broth, bowls			
Dry toast, slices			
Oranges		1 dozen	

KJ = Stannic Chloride -
smoke gas + used for gumming
up masks by formation of
butter of tin.

NO. Diethylsulphochloride -
Ethylene + sulphur chloride.

L3 = phosgene - 60 Cc Sp. g. = 1.45
 $60 \text{ Cc}_2 + 71 \text{ H}_2 \text{ O.H} \rightarrow 71 \text{ H}_2 \text{ O.C} + \text{H}_2 \text{ O} + \text{C} \rightarrow 71 \text{ H}_2 \text{ O.C}$
or C.G.

S₁ = Chloropicrin - 1.68
+ vomiting + tear gas -

71 C = S₁ + KJ. 1.755

PG = S₁ 75% + L3 25%

titanium chloride
3M = titanium chloride
used for smoke screen.
Very dense but not
heavy enough to
stay near the ground
Not toxic or irritant.
$$\text{TiCl}_4 + 4\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 4\text{HCl} + \text{Ti(OH)}_4$$

(3M) (in air)

Bromacetone = very
irritant tear gas.

Brinell Test for hardness
of steel - A dent is
made in the side of the
shell by exerting 3000 lbs.
hydraulic pressure upon it.
The greater the hardness
of the steel; the smaller
the diameter of the mouth
of the opening. This
diameter is measured
by means of a graduated
microscope. Measurement
must be less than
4.0000.

Alex Dale in hospital
was with follicles of 16 + 17

According to Hoyle
the points required
can readily be obtained
by moving about
300 yards S.W. from the point of
incidence until
the 4 foot trunk is
reached with the
2 foot appendage pointing
upward, starting 14 ft.
from the ground
thusly:

view from South



Jan Hay - "The First Hundred Thousand"
page 102 -

We are not in good spirits. One's frame of mind at all times depends largely upon what the immediate future has to offer; and, frankly, we have little to inspire us in that direction at present. When we joined, four long months ago, there loomed largely and splendidly before our eyes only two alternatives - victory in battle or death with honor. We might live, or we might die; but life, while it lasted, would not lack great moments. In our haste we had overlooked the long dreary waste which lay - which always lies - between dream

and fulfilment. The
glorious splash of
patriotic fervor which
launched us on our
way has subsided;
we have reached mid-
channel; and the haven
where we would be is
still afar off.
The present has settled
down into a permanency.

German - East 1918

Founded 1871 - 25 states and
Alsace Lorraine (territory) Emperor
is King of Prussia. May declare
war with consent of Bundesrat only.
Not even this needed in a defensive war.
Emperor power almost absolute.
Advised by imperial Chancellor
appointed by himself. Ministry
of dept. heads. responsible to
Chancellor.

Legislative power in Bundesrat
and Reichstag. Former composed
of representatives⁶² delegates appointed
by sovereigns of the several
German states. Each state not
represented equally - e.g. Saxony 4⁴
Prussia 17 - Bundesrat has
flat veto over every act of Reichstag.
Proceedings are secret.

Reichstag - elected by vote
of German people. 397
members - term 5 years -

Power in no way compared to
that of House of Rep. in U.S.
Neither legis. body has any
control over crown.

Bundesrat has power to
dissolve Reichstag.

But both legis. bodies
subject to absolute
control by the Kaiser. They
are "mere debating societies."

The Marching Men

By Landon Gurlitz

HARK to the tread of the marching men
Back from the war and home again!
Sired by every race and creed;
Worthy in thought, and word, and deed;
Spurred by the old world's desperate need:
These are the country's fighting men
Back from the war and home again.

Borne on the crest of high desire,
To stake their all in the battles' fire,
To put an end to lust and shame,
To earn their place in enduring fame,
To light their torch in the great white flame:
This was the mind of the fighting men
Who went to the war, and are home again.

In answer to the clarion call
We gave our best, to fight and fall
On the battle-front of a stricken land.
We sent a message they'd understand—
The Black Wolf's breed—an iron hand.
They have heard the tread of our fighting men
Now back from the front and home again.

And as the tramp of the marching men
Rolls down the street and on again,
Stop where you are and utter a prayer
For the lad who lingers over there,
The fellow for whom we used to care,
For the agony some poor soul must bear:
There are empty ranks in the marching men—
Some boys won't come back home again.

from

To

July 2nd

request leave from post
to visit

July 2nd

in

Signed

W. N. 3



Edgewood
Arsenal, Md.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP

S.O.L.

1918

On Saturday ~~come~~ ~~and~~ more you're out of clothes
(where your clean ones are God only knows)
And you hunt ~~around~~ ^{in vain} all over the place
With ~~on~~ ~~my~~ ~~face~~ old beard all over your face
And out to inspection you brazenly stare
- You're S.O.L. - that's all.

If a letter from home says you're due for a treat
"There's a box on the way filled with stuff to eat"
And you wait two weeks, then begin to fear
That you'll never see it if you wait a year
To the ~~time~~ situation you finally fall
- You're S.O.L. - that's all.

Though you sleep on the porch while the weather's fine
And you tell the boys, "It's the life for mine"
As winter comes you're full of gloom
When you can't find a place in the old squad
And the sergeant says, "No bunk in the hall"
- You're S.O.L. - that's all.

If the ^{gas} break loose as it sometimes may
And your marks on your bunk a mile away
And you stay inside as long as you dare
Then make a break for the open air
And you find you are hardly able to crawl
You're S.O.S. - that's all.